

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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## SHIELD WEEKLY

by Harold C. Holmes

Sometime ago I set myself the task of giving a write-up on all the secondary weeklies that Street and Smith brought out about 1900. My articles on COMRADES and DO AND DARE have already appeared.

Now I am giving you SHIELD Weekly and this series is considered of so little importance that in the existence of our Novel papers from Happy Hours Mag to the latest Round-Up, this series while mentioned a couple of times on check lists has had only one paragraph devoted to it otherwise. This was in an article by Ralph P. Smith in Happy Hours Magazine #52 Sept.-Oct. 1933, titled "Novels of Short Life." Ralph has this to say QUOTE. SHIELD WEEKLY. 22 numbers of detective fiction were issued. There may have been one or two more but #22 is the last I have ever seen. Not so hot for fiction, but a nice little set of books. UNQUOTE.

Guess no one will quarrel with Ralph over that analysis. That about covers everything. Of the dozen boy friends of mine who read novels SHIELD was the forgotten weekly. As to myself as a boy I probably read several but can recall only two I read when they were issued, #11 and #12.

All issues of SHIELD were small size and there were 22 of them. #22 was issued the last week that Street and Smith issued small size weeklies the date was May 4, 1901. #1 was dated Dec. 8, 1900. The author was given as Alden F. Bradshaw probably a pen name. Many of the boys have said the set are all reprints but have no knowledge of my own where they



came from. The colored picture covers were rather of a disappointment, you will not find even one of any unusual attractiveness. #22 the last issue is as unlike the other 21 issues as black is from white. It could well have been a reprint from Old Cap Collier at its worst. SHIELD is easily divided into 3 series. The first is the longest and by far the best written and should be called the

### BOSTON SERIES

Series ran from 1 thru 16. Stories purported to be written around actual cases in Boston Police files and to carry out that idea Chief Insp. Watts of Boston Det. Bureau had a prominent part in the stories and his full page portrait was carried on page 1 of each of the first 5 issues. The det



Lero is Sheridan Keene, he appears to be 25 or 30 years old and is portrayed in a logical manner. If all there were in Shield Weekly were these 16 issues, it could be said they were well written interesting tales. I have lived and worked in Boston and can say from my own knowledge that all names of buildings, streets and localities in this series are real names of real places. I like #11 Under the Knife or, The Cloak of Guilt, about the best in this series.

#### Second series should be called the PITTSBURGH SERIES

This series included issues 17 thru 21 and were as was the Boston Series written perfectly up-to-date as of 1900. The Pittsburgh Series are very readable tales altho they made the hero det. Steve Manley a boy of 16 which rather casts unreality over the stories for the adult reader altho it should have helped sell to boy readers probably. As in the 1st series they were supposed to be based on actual cases, this time of the Pittsburgh. Pa Police and #17 carried a full page portrait on page 1 of Chief of Det Roger O'Mara of Pittsburgh. #19 A Skin Game; or, Steve Manley Among the Tanners was the liveliest tale of the lot. Horrible subject. Gang outside Pittsburgh, secure dead human bodies tan the hides and make shoes which they sell to wealthy women at \$50.00 a pair, stating they were made of imported leather smuggled into the country.

Last series is the

#### CHICAGO SERIES

Consisted of only one issue #22 titled; Kit Keen, the Crook Catcher; or, The King of the Kidnappers. The only one of its kind for which we should be thankful. No picture of police chief on page 1 of this issue altho he was in story tho not named, simply called Chief. Story was very crude and surely a reprint as text repeatedly refers to a tale that had gone before when Kit had helped out the Chicago police. This story surely gets off to an early start.

The 16 year old Kit Keene, just off a train at Polk St. Station sees two men trying to kidnap a young woman. He dashes to the rescue, knocks one man unconscious with a blow from his satchel which the story carefully tells you contained two heavy revolvers. When the other kidnapper drew a

revolver to shoot Kit, our hero seized the villain's wrist and bent the hand back so that the bullet struck and killed the naughty man himself. Then Kit stole a team and drove his rescued damsel to safety.

For this "bit in a day's work" the Chief made Kit, "the youngest det. on the force." He gave him two badges, one a silver badge, being the regular badge of the det. force. The other was "extra special," a gold badge, having on it, the emblem of the Supt of Police, the emblem of the Chief of Det and the emblem of the Chief of the U. S. Secret Service and in the center, the word "OBEY." How cunning Kit must have looked with these two medals on his little chest.

But Kit did all right for himself. He captured Al King, the King of Crooks and received \$10,000 reward. The grateful girl he rescued bought and presented to him the little home he lived in, with his dog, Satan and also the two adjoining vacant lots. The story does not tell why Miss Crandall included the two vacant lots but probably it was to give him a convenient place to bury his dead. Personally I predict a big future for Kit when he grows up.

With Kit Keen we draw the curtain on SHIELD WEEKLY and next I hope to write up for you MY QUEEN WEEKLY.

#### REPRINTS

All the issues of SHIELD were reprinted in Magnet and New Magnet Lib. (thick books) as Nick Carter stories. The stories except for #1 were not intermixed but ran straight for reprint of one issue before starting the next. Almost all the members of the Carter family assumed roles in these reprints. In all cases the locations in Boston, Pittsburgh and Chicago were changed to New York.

The first to appear was  
MAGNET 224 reprinted in Mag. 1184.  
page 5 thru 84 Shield 22 Bob Ferret  
in Kit Keen's role.

Page 85 thru 146 Shield 15 Nick as  
Sheridan Keene and Ida Jones  
having role of Margaret Macey the  
Boston woman det.

page 147 thru 223. Shield 8 Nick and  
Chick each have part of Sheridan  
Keene's role.

MAGNET 230 reprinted in 1086

page 5 thru 74 Nick as Sheridan  
Keen in Shield 13.



page 75 thru 139 Shield 19 Patsy as Steve Manley.  
 page 140 thru 211 Shield 21 Bob Ferret as Steve Manley.  
 MAGNET 232 reprinted in 1088.  
 page 5 thru 65 Shield 20 Bob Ferret as Steve Manley  
 page 66 thru 134 Shield 14 Nick as Sheridan Keene.  
 page 135 thru 203 Shield 10 Jack Burton as Sheridan Keene.  
 MAGNET 234 reprinted in 1093  
 page 5 thru 68 Shield 18 Bob Ferret as Steve Manley.  
 page 68 thru 134 Shield 6 Nick as Sheridan Keene.  
 page 135 thru 209 Shield 11 as #6.  
 MAGNET 236 reprinted in 1091.  
 page 5 thru 75 Shield 12 Nick as Keene.  
 page 76 thru 128 Shield 2 Nick and Chick each have part of Keene's role.  
 page 129 thru end Shield 5 Chick as Keene.  
 MAGNET 238 reprinted in 1082.  
 page 5 thru 72 Shield 7 Nick as Keene.  
 page 73 thru 147 Chick as Keene in Shield 9.  
 page 148 thru 214 Shield 16 Nick and Chick share Keene's role.  
 MAGNET 244 reprinted in 1037.  
 pages 5 thru 52 and also pages 182 thru 202 Shield 3 Chick as Keene.  
 pages 53 thru 124 Shield 4 Chick as Keene.  
 pages 125 thru 182 Shield 17 Chick as Keene.  
 MAGNET 274 reprinted in 1050  
 Shield #1 with Nick as Sheridan Keene. The author chosen to prepare the volume took Shield #1 and intermixed it with a story I cannot identify or else he wrote enough new text to fill the volume, I don't know which but a good job was done and it is a fine story. SHIELD #1 was contained in Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21. One of the fellows once wrote me that Magnet Lib. #93 Harrison Keith, Detective; was a reprint of SHIELD but never having seen a copy of Magnet 93 cannot say from my own knowledge.

The only other reprinting of Shield I told of in a short article I had in Round-Up for May 1937 and I repeat it here in order to have all the information I have printed in one place

The entire sets of SHIELD WEEKLY were reprinted as serial stories in

the Nick Carter Stories. The first being a reprint of SHIELD #4 which began in Nick Carter Stories #7. It took four issues of NCS to reprint one issue of SHIELD with only a couple of exceptions in which only three issues were needed. In two or three instances the closing chapter or two of one issue of SHIELD and the opening chapter or two of the next SHIELD were printed in the same issue of NCS. Beginning with the reprint of SHIELD #4 they were published in sequence thru the last one #22 and were followed immediately by the three missing numbers 1, 2, 3. They finally ended in NCS 87.

Sorry I couldn't give you anything definite in this article as to the origin of the SHIELD tales but am completely baffled on that.

### NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Have just heard from our San Antonio, Texas, friend, W. C. Miller, Jan 29th 1944, that he has been very sick back along for a long time, and is trying to get back to good health again once more, as he says he hasn't bought, sold or traded a novel for over 2 years, says he's almost forgotten them, so let's all pitch in, and see if we can't make the hobby more interesting to him, as well as others, Pard. Give a pal a chance. He needs a few Log Cabins and Red, White and Blue to complete his sets. Won't you help him, thanks.

Miss Gladys Vaughan of Keslers Cross Lanes, W. Va. says that her father was one of the real characters in Mrs. Alex McVeigh Millers novel, called "Little Coquette Bonnie."

Ray Caldwell says: Here's the correct dope on the Boys of New York and New York Boys Weekly. Norman Munro started the Boys of New York and published the first 152 nos. and Tousey and Small started the New York Boys Weekly, a little while after Boys of N. Y. came out, to compete with Munro. Then Tousey and Small bought the Boys of New York from Munro, and combined their N. Y. Boys Weekly with it under the one name with No. 153. Then later on Small sold out his interest and Tousey kept on by himself.

See Carl Linville's quarter page ad on "Old Newspapers Wanted" in this



issue. Carl has been collecting them for 10 years and loves this hobby as well as old novels. So fellows, be sure to dig into your iron bound chests, attics, cellars, every nook and corner as you are liable to find some wants for his collection, either cash or novels are waiting for your letter to come his way, with a nice list of his wants.

"Eli Messier, Andrews Mill Worker, Collects Dime Novels as his Hobby," appeared in The Wool Gatherer for January 1944. A nice writeup with two pictures of Eli and his room stocked with novels, a fine article.

Sam E. Conner also has a writeup on "Some of Col. Ingraham's Dime Novels had Maine Backgrounds," appearing in the Lewiston Journal for Feb. 5, 1944. A fine write up on Col. Prentiss Ingraham and his father.

The Circus originated among the Romans and first consisted merely of horse and chariot races; the name means ring or circle from the circuit made by the riders. Later wrestling and other athletic contests were added and large sums of money were spent to bring wild animals from various parts of the country to be killed in the arena.

Sandy Griswold; once editor of the Omaha Bee, a newspaper printed in Nebraska, first wrote for "Indoor and Out," published by the Nickel Library Co., just prior to the advent of the 5c novel. Wrote a number of Munro's 10c novels. Among them, "Arizona Saul," "The Wolf Slayer," "The Mad Man of the Colorado." Wrote a serial for the Weekly Novelist (Nickel Library Co.) entitled "Mad Ezekial." In the Nickel Library he wrote "The Chippewa Guide." In Street and Smiths publications wrote "Chimpuck, the Wyandotte." This information appeared in Happy Hours Mag in 1927. Thought it worth reprinting.

Helen Corwin Pierce; most of her stories appeared in N. Y. Weekly.

Notice! This is a great time for fellows trying to get novels under false pretenses, and skinning the other fellow as much as he can. Several of our members have been skinned lately, as well as in the past, as there is sharks in all trades. Your own president has suffered very heavily, as well as others. Several have served time in prison, and still it is carried on. It's a shame.

C. E. Darrow of Plainfield, N. J.

says he just attended a book auction and he says a buyer paid \$60.00 for a Dime Novel without front or back covers, gosh, he must of wanted it pretty bad. Ye editor has a whole box full of old dime novels without covers, that he'll sell at 50c each. That's \$59.50 less than the above.

Albert Johannsen says: This shows that the "Roundup" isn't a bad advertising medium! I have had quite a number of letters asking for a catalog of the sale of my dime novels. Of course there was no sale and it all seems to be the result of a mix-up in the item ye editor inserted on page 5 of the December number. "My collection is not up for sale." Apparently two items were combined in the Round Up note, which gave the impression that I was disposing of it.

Have "Print-O-Press", never used. Cost \$16.00 two years ago. Will sell for \$13.00 P. P. and insured.

Ralph F. Cummings  
Fisherville, Mass.

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  86. Wm. J. Hahn, 3215 E. Mulberry St., Evansville 14, Ind. (new address)
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  173. Kenneth H. Dunshee, c/o The Home Fleet Insurance Co., 59 Maiden Lane, New York, N. Y.

FORMER WRITER NOW CORPORAL  
IN AIR CORPS

Edwin L. Brooks, of Chicago, and former journalist and writer and special contributor to this periodical, has notified us through his brother, Mr. Leo Brooks, that his home address has been changed from Edwin L. Brooks, 1528 South Harding Avenue, Chicago 23, Ill., to 1553 South Ridgeway Ave., Chicago 23, Ill. Readers wishing to correspond or get in touch with him may do so through his brother at the new address.

Mr. Brooks was recently given the good conduct ribbon, after being 18 months in service. He has also been promoted to the rank of Corporal and is now stationed at his old field Barksdale Field, La., with a Service Group on the Engineering Staff, Servicing Bombers and Planes. He is also Field News Reporter, Public Relations man and Special Information Officer of his outfit and between all these duties finds time to contact collectors, hobbyists, writers and kindred G. I.'s. He is interested in getting humorous sketches of G. I.'s adventures in service, having had similar adventures published in YANK and other publications.

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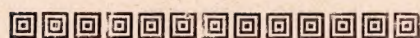
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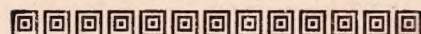
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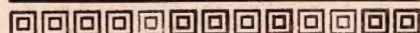
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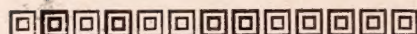
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